

# **BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

## **Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, September 9, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, September 9, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., at the MotorCity Blight Busters Center, 17405 Lahser, Detroit, Michigan 48219.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Board Members Present**

Willie E. Hampton  
Arthur Blackwell, II  
Erminia Ramirez **(ABS)**  
Jim Holley  
Megan Norris

#### **Department Personnel Present**

AC Walter Shoulders  
DC Fred Campbell  
DC Gary Christian  
DC Ronald Haddad  
DC Cara Best  
Cmdr. Brenda Goss-Andrews  
Cmdr. Ralph Godbee  
Cmdr. Craig Schwartz  
Cmdr. Willie Burden  
Cmdr. Walter Martin  
Insp. Jan Johnson  
Insp. Michael Walsh  
Insp. Todd Bettison  
Insp. Daniel O'Neill  
Insp. John Autrey  
Insp. Morris Wells  
Lt. Elliot  
Lt. Ricardo Moore  
Lt. R. Lawrence  
Lt. Lewis Bray  
Sgt. Debbie Jackson  
Sgt. Julian  
Sgt. Jones  
Sgt. Robert Nill

Sgt. D. Carey  
Sgt. Dolinger  
PO Reggie Crawford  
PO Walker  
PO Johnson  
PO Pembroke  
PO Rupert

**Board Staff Present**

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director  
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director  
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv. **(ABS)**  
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator  
Vickie Scott-Miller, Sr. Police Commission Investigator  
Kent Cooper, Police Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Loretta France	Toni Gibson	Charles Wright
Kenneth Batter	Sandra Hines	Mary Little
Linda Gruss	Jennifer Gruss	Laura Gruss
SaDorvia Carter	Gloria Canales	Thomas Wilson
Frank Hopskins	Charles Smith	

**RECORDER**

Jerome Adams

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairperson Blackwell** called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:52 p.m.

**Comm. Norris** read the duties and responsibilities of the Board.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

♦ **Thursday, September 2, 2004**

**MOTION:** **Comm. Blackwell** made the motion to approve the above Minutes.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Norris** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

**Chairperson Blackwell** asked for a moment of silence for PO Kenneth Daniels (active), assigned to the Tactical Services Section.

**RESOLUTION HONORING  
CHARLES FRANKLIN SMITH**

**WHEREAS** Mr. Charles Franklin Smith is a resident and community leader in the city of Detroit; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Smith actively participated in the Eighth Precinct's 2004 Police Week programs; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Smith has dedicated countless hours assisting with Eighth Precinct Community Relations activities, and preparing food for precinct events; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Smith delivers free meals to senior citizens during Thanksgiving and Christmas; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Smith, in addition to all the aforementioned activities, finds time to volunteer for church activities, such as working as a Senior Usher and serving food to the homeless,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the generous spirit of Mr. Smith. His unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in her community and throughout the city of Detroit merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Mr. Charles Franklin Smith.

**DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

/s/Arthur Blackwell

/s/Erminia Ramirez

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

/s/ Megan P. Norris  
Commissioner

/s/Jim Holley  
Commissioner

/s/Willie Hampton  
Commissioner

**MOTION:**     **Comm. Norris** made the motion to adopt the above Resolution.

**SECOND:**    **Comm. Hampton** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**        All in attendance voted in the affirmative

**AC Shoulders** presented Mr. Smith with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the citizens and the Detroit Police Department. He also presented Mr. Smith with the Spirit of Detroit Award on behalf of City Council.

**Mr. Smith** thanked everyone.

**Chairperson Blackwell** stated we would like to acknowledge the passing of Mr. Odson K. Tetreault, who was the former Executive Secretary to the Board of Police Commissioners.

### **RESOLUTION HONORING ODSON K. TETREULT (“TATE”)**

**WHEREAS**        On September 22, 1947, Odson K. Tetreault was appointed to the Detroit Police Department and began his illustrious career as a Detroit Police Officer; and

**WHEREAS**        In 1953, Police Officer Tetreault was promoted to the rank of Detective; and

**WHEREAS**        In 1957, Detective Tetreault was promoted to the rank of Sergeant; and

**WHEREAS**        In 1964, Sergeant Tetreault was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; and

**WHEREAS** In 1968, Lieutenant Tetreault was appointed to the rank of Inspector and assigned to the Seventh (Mack) Precinct; and

**WHEREAS** Inspector Tetreault created the Business United with Officers and Youth (BUOY) 7 Program. This program was a move to help heal the wounds of the 1967 riots by getting the community to regain its trust in the police department and to find activities that would keep children out of trouble; and

**WHEREAS** On April 19, 1974, Inspector Tetreault retired from the Detroit Police Department and became the Chief of Police of the Springfield Police Department; and

**WHEREAS** On December 12, 1977, Mr. Tetreault returned to the City of Detroit at the request of Mayor Coleman A. Young, and served the Detroit Police Commission as a Civilian Investigator; and

**WHEREAS** After demonstrating great skill and knowledge, Civilian Investigator Tetreault was promoted to Supervising Investigator on July 1, 1978; and

**WHEREAS** In 1983, Supervising Investigator Tetreault was appointed Chief Investigator and acting Executive Secretary to the Board of Police Commissioners. In 1985, he became the permanent Executive Secretary; and

**WHEREAS** Secretary Tetreault's years of experience and insight were proven assets to the Detroit Police Commission as he fulfilled its responsibilities under the City Charter; and

**WHEREAS** During his tenure with the Board of Police Commissioners, Secretary Tetreault was instrumental in making it possible for twenty-six (26) former Commissioners to provide oversight to the Detroit Police Department, as envisioned in the Charter; and

**WHEREAS** Secretary Tetreault retired from the Detroit Board of Police Commission on December 31, 1998, after forty-eight (48) years of exemplary and dedicated service to the citizens of Detroit,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police

Department, acknowledge the outstanding commitment and loyalty of Odson Tetreault. Mr. Tetreault's actions were in accordance with the highest standards and traditions of the Detroit Police Department. His courage, integrity, professionalism and tireless dedication, merits our highest regards.

We salute and congratulate you, Mr. Odson Tetreault.

#### **DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**MOTION:**     **Comm. Norris** made the motion to adopt the above Resolution.

**SECOND:**    **Comm. Hampton** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**        All in attendance voted in the affirmative

#### **4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GOSS**

##### **CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED**

	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
<b>2004 - Weekly Count of Complaints:</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,167</b>
<b>2003 - Weekly Count of Complaints:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>909</b>

#### **5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE**

**AC Shoulders** stated tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. in front of Police Headquarters, there will be a memorial ceremony given by the Detroit Police Department and the Detroit Fire Department in recognition and memory of the 9/11 event, where we lost over 500 police officers and firefighters.

## **DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

---

REPORT TO THE  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

## *Vision Statement*

### BUILDING A SAFER DETROIT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

## **SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

During the period of September 1<sup>st</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>, the *Narcotics Enforcement and Conspiracy Units* conducted 26 enforcement actions within the boundaries of the city of Detroit, resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- ◆ 23 Felony arrests
- ◆ 36 Misdemeanor arrests
- ◆ 4 Handguns
- ◆ 2 Long guns
- ◆ 1 Vehicle
- ◆ 26 pills, 476.5 Grams of cocaine, 82.2 gram of heroin, and 154,250.6 grams of marijuana - street value \$955,822.00
- ◆ \$3,979.00 U.S. currency

### THE VIOLENT CRIMES TASK FORCE

Through their continuing and relentless commitment to the citizens of Detroit, *The Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) Unit identified members of the criminal enterprise "Dexter Boys" and "Atlanta (ATL) Boys" that were operating within the city of Detroit. These organizations are responsible for over 40 armed robberies. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, the VCTF arrested two (2) key players as well as, several other arrests, which ultimately shut down the criminal enterprise of both organizations.*

### SECOND PRECINCT

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct responded to a police run in the 8700 block of West Chicago on a "Breaking and Entering in progress." As a result of eyewitness testimony from citizens in the area, three (3) men were arrested for "Breaking and Entering." *Witnesses indicated that the vehicle driven by the three (3) men had been seen in the area on numerous other break-ins.*

## *Crime Statistics*

*Citywide, based on our 6-month report to the state, the overall reduction is 6.3%, and the violent crime reduction is 10.9%.*

## Police/Community Intervention



### TAKING THE GUNS OFF THE STREET !

Total Guns Confiscated  
Year-To-Date  
2,724



#### SIXTH PRECINCT

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, officers of the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct, while attempting to affect a traffic stop in the 14000 block of Forrer, heard several gunshots in the area. The officers then observed a flash coming from between the houses across the street from their location. As a result of their investigation and with the assistance of a K-9 Unit, the officers arrested two (2) men and confiscated a semi-automatic rifle, a shotgun and a .30 caliber long gun.

#### EIGHTH PRECINCT

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, officers of the 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct while on patrol in the area of Grand River and Evergreen, were approached by a citizen who stated his vehicle was just stolen at gunpoint. A search of the area resulted in the stolen car being recovered and the arrest of two (2) women. Confiscated were a 9mm handgun and a .22 caliber handgun.

#### TENTH PRECINCT

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, officers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct, while on patrol in the area of Livernois and Fullerton, were approached by a man who stated that while driving, a woman drove up to him and pointed a small blue steel automatic handgun at him. While the officers were talking with the man, the woman drove by. The officers conducted a traffic stop to investigate the driver. As a result of their investigation, the woman was arrested and a .22 caliber blue steel automatic handgun was confiscated.

#### TWELFTH PRECINCT

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, officers of the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct responded to the 15000 block of Birwood on a "Shots Fired – one down, run." Upon talking to the complainant who was shot, the officers obtained the identity of the shooter and where he lived. The man was subsequently arrested for "Second Degree Murder," "Felon in Possession of Firearm," "Felony Firearm" and "Habitual Fourth Offense."



POLICE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Downtown area thrived this past weekend with many festivals and events such as: the Detroit Football Classic at Ford Field which played host to 50,000 fans, the Labor Day Parade hosted by many different Metro Detroit Unions, and the Ford International Jazz Festival held in Hart Plaza. Overall the City of Detroit hosted six (6) major events. Nearly ½ million citizens and visitors were in the downtown area.

---

Chief of Police Ella M. Bully-Cummings

**6. PRESENTATION – EIGHTH PRECINCT**

**Inspector Jan Johnson** stated she is the Commanding Officer for the Eighth Precinct and introduced her staff. Insp. Johnson gave a brief presentation of the current status of the Eighth Precinct.

**7. PRESENTATION – TACTICAL SERVICES SECTION**

**AC Shoulders** asked Insp. Dan O'Neil to introduce the TSS Supervisors that will be making the presentation.

**Insp. Dan O'Neill** introduced Sgt. Robert Nill, who is the international instructor of the PR 24 Collapsible Baton and will be given the presentation regarding the baton.

**Sgt. Robert Nill** gave the following PowerPoint presentation:

**(See Attachment)**

**Questions & Answers**

**Comm. Norris** stated my understanding of this whole concept is that you sort of escalate the areas and use as little force that you need to.

**Sgt. Nill** stated that is correct.

**Comm. Norris** asked is there ever a circumstance, where certain areas are acceptable?

**Sgt. Nill** stated certainly, when an officer's life is in danger or another person's life is in danger.

**Comm. Norris** asked so is it under the same circumstances where they could shoot?

**Sgt. Nill** stated it is not quite the same thing. I would say that it would be that you are going to sustain...for example, let's say you are losing the fight and they took you by surprise and you are fighting multiple subjects and you got knocked down and you got broken bones, and you need escape. Certainly, those of us had some fights or were subjected to fights were minimal in their careers. I could think of two out of my thirty-five (35) years that I have experienced that and it is a horrible feeling. I didn't have baton in either case, so I was very tempted to use my firearm and get out of there because I wanted it to be over. So under those kinds of fights and conditions, where an officer has to escape or has lost the fight, will be justified to use it where they are at. It is not ruled out; it is just a last result.

**Comm. Norris** asked in your experience with the Metro Division in using this device, how often has that come up whether it has been authorized or not to use, where someone has actual had to use the baton.

**Sgt. Nill** stated no one has yet, that I am aware of. In my experience, I carried everyday for ten years that I worked the street and no one has ever attacked me, so I have never used it on anyone. I have used it for an arm lock, when a supervisor was being assaulted in a crowd situation.

**Comm. Holley** asked is there a red line when it comes to using the baton.

**Sgt. Nill** stated there is no red line, this is it. You can use handgun instead of your baton, but it is an option that is there if you have to have it.

**Comm. Holley** asked could the community be comfortable with the training that the officers receive when using the baton?

**Sgt. Nill** stated I started training people in 1994 and I put a lot of emphasis on use of force.

**Comm. Holley** stated my concern is that when we are training officers, I have heard that officers are trained by their gun, that you don't pull your gun unless you intend to use it. He asked is it the same thing in terms of the baton that I don't pull it unless I intend to use it?

**Sgt. Nill** stated for example, if I draw my baton and I say sir get back and the person stops what he is doing and raises his hands and say I give up, that is the end of it and I don't use my baton.

**Comm. Holley** asked for example, if I am 180 pound officer and I am dealing with someone that is 350 pounds. Are you saying to me that I am trained in such a way that I could bring down a 350 pound and bring him to a point that I can control him.

**Sgt. Nill** stated a person that has physically unsound an officer that is just not that strong at all, barely qualifies as an officer and confronts a person who has been working construction for many years....

**Comm. Holley** stated I am thinking that he/she is trained in such a way that because of the training that it gives that officer the extra strength or the how you use the technique is really what brings my person under control.

**Sgt. Nill** stated that is what the baton system is about leverage. We use these for training purposes, so that we don't have injured officers because the officers are given multiple repetitions in order to master the skill of doing armlocks.

**Comm. Norris** asked in the Metro Division, when a baton has had to be used, is there any review of that in cases where uses of forces has been used?

**Sgt. Nill** stated oh yes.

**Comm. Norris** asked could you give a describe a little bit?

**Sgt. Nill** stated any use of force is investigated thoroughly.

**Insp. Dan O'Neill** from the Metro Division stated the first thing that is done, is that an officer prepares a multiple use of force report even if there is no injury involved. The supervisor comes to the scene and reviews it and makes an endorsement on that report. The second thing that is done, if there has been some type of injury, there is a police accident report that is generated, which is half of the summary investigation. There is a canvas, witnesses are interviewed, the subject is interviewed and medical reports, so there is a big investigation.

**Comm. Norris** stated if someone uses use of force in the investigation and you determine okay under all of these technical things we could defend this use of force, but we don't think that it is the best judgment of the officer. She then asked is any action taken in those types of those situations?

**Insp. O'Neill** stated yes, our Manual will dictate what level of force is appropriate and if the level was inappropriate and if it was too excessive.

**Comm. Norris** asked how about you determine that we shouldn't have gotten into that situation? For example, if once the officer and they guy is standing there doing all of that and the officer would just bite him in the process. She asked did the officer follow our policies and procedures in handling the situation.

**AC Shoulders** stated our force team is also notified anytime when there is an injury to an officer and/or prisoner at the time of the investigation. During the investigation process, it is determined if all of the policies were followed, if there

is a need for retraining or was there another way that it could have been done and etc.

**Comm. Hampton** asked how much training goes into a confrontational situation? For example, if someone is carrying a sign that is on a stick and you arrest that person and that person doesn't give up his or her sign and a officer uses a baton and the person throws up the sign to protect their body. He asked are officers trained to strike a person in a different area on his/her body and determine which area is more severe?

**Sgt. Nill** stated if we see a group a people we wouldn't often come up and (inaudible), we would try to exhaust every measure as possible to let the situation tame itself. There might be situations when we need to step in and clear a doorway so that trucks could get through and the officers would have the batons available to them.

**AC Shoulders** stated anytime that the department or our precinct commanders are notified of a possible labor action/strike there is report that we send to supervisors and there is a report that has to be done and submitted through channels, which describe who is involved in it and how long we think it is going to last, where it is located and etc . We generally dispatch supervisors to the scene.

**Chairperson Blackwell** asked if somebody is apprehended or if somebody is not necessarily fighting back, is there a clear policy?

**Sgt. Nill** stated yes.

**Chairperson Blackwell** (inaudible)

**Sgt. Nill** stated there was an incident that occurred on Belle Isle, where were trying to arrest a subject and the subject was resistance and we had to use the baton to restrain him. He ended receiving a couple of abrasions on his arms and he didn't want to make a complaint, but we still treated as an injured person.

**Comm. Holley** asked are you saying to us and half of the community, that this document that you went through that you are in compliance with the consent decree in every way?

**Comm. Norris** stated no, the conditions of the consent decree that we adopted in the use of force....

**Sgt. Nill** stated this would match that.

**Comm. Norris** stated the collapsible baton is something that has been accepted as in compliance. The Chief's recommendation to us was because we

experience with it, we had training, we have policies on it and we know how to do, then we could expand it to the whole department. That is not to say that other things won't be looked at.

**PO Johnson** gave a demonstration on the PR-24 Collapsible Baton.

**MOTION:**     **Comm. Norris** made the motion to approve Training Directive 04-06: PR-24 Collapsible Baton.

**SECOND:**    **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**       All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Chairperson Blackwell** gave the funeral arrangements for Mr. Odson Tetreault and SPO Martinez Blanch. He also asked for a moment of silence for SPO Martinez Blanch.

**Comm. Hampton** stated I received a request from OCI to hire a contract employee to work in a full time position.

**Chairperson Blackwell** asked what is the name of the person?

**Comm. Hampton** stated Melanie White.

**MOTION:**     **Comm. Hampton** made the motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Melanie White.

**SECOND:**    **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**       All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, September 16, 2004, @ 3:00 p.m.  
Police Headquarters  
1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A  
Detroit, MI 48226

**10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**Thomas Wilson** stated I am the President of the Eighth Precinct Community Relations. He voiced concerns that he doesn't think that the Police Department should take money and resurrect the train station; they should let someone private come in and do that. He also voiced his concerns regarding the death of Kenneth Daniels. He also stated that the DPD should pay officers more money, so that they should not have to work side jobs.

**PO Reggie Crawford** voiced his concern regarding her demeanor during a routine traffic stop incident involving Christine Beatty. He also voiced concerns that there was not enough police presence at "the "Black Party that was held on Sunday, September 5, 2004, at the City Airport. There was also a lot of liter left aft the party was over.

**Sandra Hines** stated I am overwhelmed that Detroit is in bad shape because we have had over 800 shootings and over 200 deaths. She also stated that the people and the police department need to understand that they need to let the public have a say so and participate in all of this stuff that they are doing and get to really understand that people are people and start working on conflict resolution skills.

**Frank Hopkins** stated I am with the Detroit Cab Driver Association. He voiced concerns regarding the cab driver that shot and killed last week, who drove for the United Cab company.

**Mary Little** stated it is time for the citizens of Detroit to start doing something for their police officers.

**Charles Wright** voiced concerns that there is not enough police visibility in his neighborhood and that there are always about 15 to 20 people doing drugs and drinking liquor in the middle of the street.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**DANTE' L. GOSS**  
Executive Director  
Board of Police Commissioners

**DLG/kdw**